

THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST published every morning (Sundays excepted), is the largest and most widely circulated journal in Her Majesty's Possessions on the Pacific.

Resident Subscribers may have the same left at their residence at 25 cents per week, by furnishing their address at the Office of Publication.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST, published every Tuesday, will be mailed or left at the residence of Subscribers, ready for mailing, at 25 cents per week, payable to the carrier.

JOB PRINTING.

THE BRITISH COLONIST PUBLISHING COMPANY having received a large addition to their stock of new and beautiful printing type, will execute orders to any extent with neatness and dispatch, at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

In future all notices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages intended for insertion in this paper must be pre-paid at the following rates: For Births and Marriages, \$1.00; for Deaths, \$1.00, with funeral notice \$1.50.

AMERICANS AND THEIR HOLIDAYS.

Yesterday was the 22d of February—a glorious day in the annals of American history. So far as Victoria is concerned, however, it was not kept in the old boisterous way by American citizens. Plugs waved pleasantly enough from every building and numerous were the business houses closed, but otherwise there was but little sign of that hilarity which usually characterizes an American holiday. And yet there was no diminution in the respect for the anniversary of Washington's Birth. The hero of the Revolution was just as green in the memory of the citizens of the United States yesterday as he was at any time during the present century, but the last five years have made a wonderful change in the American calendar as well as in the American character. The youthful mind is no longer taught to look upon the 22d of February and the Fourth of July as the only national holidays worthy of special notice. Heroic epochs are no longer things of the almost traditional past. The Southern rebellion, if it sowed the dragon's tooth to bring forth enemies to freedom, produced on the other hand the highest order of humanity as a counterforce. A new race of heroes has sprung up in the page of American history worthy to be ranked side by side with those of the revolution of '76. Washington, although still the great, still the pure and the patriotic—at all the more than Cincinnatus of modern times—has no longer the undivided worship of the country. Another great figure has started out from the canvas of events, scarcely less illustrious, scarcely less spotless, scarcely less worthy of a nation's gratitude, than the "Father of his country."

Another President, at a most trying ordeal in the public safety, came forward and carried the republic safely through her dangers; and it is this man who shares the national reverence with Washington. The memory of two such men is the richest legacy that could be left a country. In vain may we peruse ancient and modern history for their equals—in vain call out from the "spirits of the mighty dead" the noblest of the nobles—Washington and Lincoln stand as gods in comparison with the greatest. Their memory sheds a halo around the republic—a halo of moral grandeur to those without and of halcyon influence to those within. So long as America keeps the spirits of such men before her people—so long as they are held in patriotic veneration by the nation, there is a guarantee that the heart of the country will be sound.

We have said the American calendar as well as character has been changed by recent events. The long list of hard-fought battles, and the equally long list of celebrated men which the rebellion produced, will afford memorable anniversaries sufficient to give a celebration almost every week. It is this fact which will make the American holiday in the future less notable, and it is this fact which will make the American character more subdued; there will be plenty of Washington Birthdays and innumerable Fourth of Julys. The hero-worship which formed so marked a feature in the national character will partake more of the undemonstrative feeling of Englishmen; and we can look forward to the not far distant period when the most celebrated national holiday in the Republic will create but little more demonstration than the Queen's Birthday does in Great Britain. It is the ordinary tendency of things. Nations like individuals quickly lose the exuberance of youth under the strokes of adversity, and quickly enter into the responsibilities of mature age. As they gain in experience the *nil admirari* doctrine of the old Latin author assumes the place of the impulsive and buoyant feelings of early thoughtlessness, and the hilarity and joviality become toned down to almost a lamentable placidity. The United States with all her youth has, however, been extremely practical and material; her progress has been essentially the progress of utilitarianism; yet she has never been wanting in sentiment—her fault has indeed been on the other side, rather a tendency to overdo things. Her celebration and public processions were the most exaggerated demonstrations since the time of the Roman conquests. We question indeed if ever Julius Caesar presented to the people of Rome such spectacles as might be seen on any extraordinary day of rejoicing in the large cities of the Eastern States. It was in fact a national vanity—the vanity to excel even in demonstrations not always characterized by wisdom or by prudence. A remarkable illustration of this peculiarity and the difference between the Englishman and the American was displayed in the manner in which each country received the news of the laying of the first Atlantic cable. While England treated the affair with a rather unjustifiable coolness almost amounting to indifference, the people of the United States had processions and pyrotechnic displays in every city throughout the Union, and never stopped until they burned down a number of their public buildings. All this, however, is undergoing a rapid transformation; celebrations are now becoming less boisterous, and holidays more sedate—facts which argue, as yesterday's commemoration does, no diminution in the respect or appreciation of the occasion, but a less demonstrative way of showing it.

NOTICE.

A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE held in EXETER at Mr. Rotherham's Storehouse, on Saturday, the 24th inst., at 7:30 p.m., to receive the Committee's report on the Local Act, and to carry out the views of the meeting of 13th inst.

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